

THIS IS US

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Invite | Grow | Serve

14th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 Worship Celebration

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | Inviting, Growing, Serving...

Becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

September 3, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Faith is a growing faith community in the Aurora area. We're people just like you, who are hungry to know God better. We're looking for the answers to life's tough questions. We're struggling to be better parents, spouses, friends, and neighbors. We don't have all the answers but we're growing as we go.

Faith is a great place to find healing for broken hearts and broken lives. In every Sunday message you'll learn new skills and attitudes to help you live life with the kind of joy that God intends for us. You'll also meet people who are also growing in their journey through the joys and challenges of life. You'll find lots of "walking partners" for your journey here. There are no closed doors at Faith, just lots of opportunities to grow in Christ, friendship, and love.

Faith is a church with a great vision; however, accomplishing a great vision requires the participation of many great people like you. There's a place in our vision for you to use your unique gifts and talents.

CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES: THIS IS US

Welcome to This Is Us - We will discover and explore our church's mission, vision, and values. Together, we will explore the foundations of our faith, the heart of our community, and the purpose that drives us forward. Whether you're a long-time member of our congregation or someone new to our community, we're excited to have you join us for this engaging series.

The Gathering

OPENING SONG

Glorious Day

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight?
It was my tomb 'til I met You

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Chorus You Called my name and I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name and I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new, Jesus, when I met You (*Chorus*)

I needed rescue, my sin was heavy
But the chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter, I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven

When I was broken, You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future
My eyes are open, cause when (*Chorus*)

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa!

Jesus Christ, my living hope
Oh God, You are my living hope

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word

READING

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Beautiful Savior

please stand

Beautiful Savior King of creation
Son of God and Son of Man
Truly I'd love Thee truly I'd serve Thee
Light of my soul my Joy my Crown

GOSPEL

John 13: 1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

MESSAGE

We Serve | Pastor Rob

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.
- A: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious and loving God, we pray for the family and friends of Faith... Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Meal

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

OFFERATORY PRAYER

A: God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen**

The Meal

P: God's love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son, so that anyone who believes in Him should not die but receive eternal life.

We come to this table in need;
We are weak and need strength;
We are broken and need healing;
We are hardened and need softening;
We are poor in spirit and need care.

C: **We give thanks for Your compassion, O God;
We rejoice at Your invitation to share in this meal,
and we receive again Your abundant grace.**

P: So, let's remember how Jesus gave Himself for us;
At supper, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and shared it with His friends, saying:
This is my body, given for you. Take it, eat it, and remember Me.

C: Amen.

P: After supper, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks and shared it with His friends, saying:
This is my blood shed for you. Take it, drink it and remember Me.

C: Amen.

P: In this bread and in this wine we receive again
the generous, and costly gift of life,
offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus.
This meal is a proclamation of God's goodness, a thanksgiving for God's grace
and a sharing in God's life.

C: And we will keep celebrating in this way until Jesus returns. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

AN INVITATION

We invite you to share in Holy Communion this morning, regardless of your church background or lack thereof. We believe that God is present in the bread and wine as it becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ and that this presence is a gift of grace in the lives of those who receive it. All are welcomed to the table enjoy this gift of God's love and mercy. Apple/Grape juice is in the center of the communion tray. Gluten free wafers available at usher stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING *please stand*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: **Amen.**

The Sending

SENDING PRAYER

A: Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Mighty to Save

Everyone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a savior
The hope of nations

Chorus Saviour, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever, author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as you find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender (*Chorus*)

Shine your light and
Let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory
Of the risen King... Jesus (*Chorus*) (*Chorus*)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Faith!

We are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! Have questions about Faith? Wondering how to get connected or get more involved? We'd love to help. No matter where you are in life or how many times you've visited, we're here to guide you towards your next best step. Stop by the welcome center located near the main entrance. If this is your first time at Faith, let us know, we've got a special gift just for you!

Faith welcomes Jennifer Richardson who will be serving as our new volunteer coordinator!

Jennifer is a full time wife, mama, and entrepreneur. She is a recent transplant to the Aurora area after spending the previous 10 years in Atlanta.

"I am so excited that Pastor Rob offered me the position of Volunteer Coordinator. I have truly enjoyed getting to know the members of the congregation I've met so far, and I love helping people find ways to use their unique gifts to serve in ways that make a big impact on our community. If you see me around, please say hello!"

FAITH IN ACTION TEAM

Following Jesus is what Faith is all about. He made it very clear, that if we love him, we'll love those around us. Actions speak louder than words! Our Faith In Action team is all about meeting the needs of those around us. From providing rides, dropping of meals, cutting someone's lawn, to visiting those hospitalized, or home bound, our team is here for you. If you have a need, or know of someone in need, please fill out a need request form online.

If you would like serve on the Faith In Action team, or would like more information, please email faithinaction@discoveringfaith.com. Your simple act of serving can make a huge impact!

KIDWERKS KICKOFF

Sun 9/10 | 9:30 AM

Our Sunday morning PreK – 5th grade children's ministry program is back! At 9:30am we will meet weekly in the auditorium. Registration is now open online at discoveringfaith.com

GRIEFSHARE AT FAITH

Tuesdays | 6:30 PM

Anyone who has experienced the death of a family member or friend is invited to attend our new GriefShare series.

GriefShare is a nondenominational, biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). The workbook also provides a brief daily Bible study. These sessions are open to any adult regardless of whether your experience is recent or not so recent.

The group is led by individuals who have personally experienced grief due to a loved one's death. Each leader is trained in facilitating a GriefShare support group.

The \$15.00 registration fee includes materials.

To register visit www.discoveringfaith.com/griefshare

COMPASSION WEEKEND

Sept 15-17, 2023

Compassion Weekend is all about caring for each other. All around us, people are hurting. They are tired, worn down and lonely. God cares deeply about the real-life challenges of real people in our neighborhoods. We serve each other as an extension of that compassion. There is no hidden agenda or secret motive. For this one weekend, we set aside our regular weekend services and activities simply to serve those around us. We want to invite you to join us! You can make a difference in the lives of others around us.

Sign up today in the café or online at discoveringfaith.com

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

Sun 9/17 | 9:30 AM

Join us on Sunday, September 17th for our outdoor church service! There will be just one service that day at 9:30 AM. You are invited to worship from your car or bring a lawn chair and blankets to sit on the lawn. Don't forget to bring the whole family, including the dog!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Sun 9/17 | 5:00 PM

The middle school years are often the toughest — for students and parents! Crossroads, Faith's confirmation ministry, is here to help you, students, and parents! During the school year, Faith's confirmation ministry, meets weekly Sunday from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Through teaching, games, music, and more, Crossroads helps middle school students understand the role God wants to play in their daily lives. What's at Crossroads? Great friends, awesome leaders, interactive games, delicious food, and high-impact teaching. Registration is \$25.00. Crossroads has great events throughout the year, including summer camp, overnights, and serving events. Register today at discoveringfaith.com

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY KICK OFF

Sun 9/17 | 5:00 PM

At Faith, we've created an event that attracts high school students just like you. We call it t.n.l.- the next level. We make this time as fun and relevant as we possibly can. But we go a couple steps further and do two things we believe are vitally important for you: we pay attention to what's going on in your life, and we care about you. This happens in our small group break out. Every night after the large group Revolution, you will get together with your small group to spend time in a more intimate setting, talking, processing, and praying about what's going on in your lives. It's simple: big group to small group. The goal is for you to leave feeling energized to go out there and tackle another week! Register today at discoveringfaith.com

NEXT

Sun 9/24 | 9:00 & 10:30 AM

If you've ever wondered how to get involved at Faith, or how to take the next step, don't worry. We've created a simple next step for you. It's a small gathering called NEXT. This informal gathering lasts only about 20 minutes after services and will provide you an overview of our mission, strategy, and environments to help you determine your best next step for continuing your faith journey. Meets fireside

GROUPLINK

Weds 9/27 | 7:00 PM

If you are interested in learning how to connect to a community group here at Faith please plan on attending Grouplink. In a community group, people study God's Word together and discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Life change happens best in these small groups! Sign up at the welcome center or online at www.discoveringfaith.com

Giving at Faith! As Easy as Click & Give



As followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace irrational generosity. We know it changes lives—ours and the people we're reaching. At Faith, taking action on your generosity is simple. Just scan the QR code with your camera and give. Simple, safe, and secure.

Prayers

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list and have the prayer team pray for them, please contact the church office at [\(630\) 862-3500](tel:6308623500) or send an e-mail prayerteam@discoveringfaith.com

Prayer concerns will be listed for four weeks unless otherwise noted.

Care

If you know of someone who is in need of emotional, physical, or spiritual support, please contact our care team at: careteam@discoveringfaith.com

Pastoral Emergency

In the case of an emergency that requires immediate Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Rob directly on his cell phone at [\(630\) 248-5515](tel:6302485515).



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